

## 2004 General Session Veteran Law Changes

### Utah Purple Heart Recipients' Tuition Act

This bill modifies the State of Higher Education code by creating a tuition wavier. This bill requires state institutions of higher education to waive the tuition of a Utah resident admitted to an undergraduate program of study leading to a degree or certificate, if the student has received a Purple Heart award as a result of military service. This wavier will take effect on July 1, 2004.

### Property Tax Abatement

A Utah permanent place-of-residence property tax exemption equivalent to the military service-connected disability rating percentage is provided for veterans or for their unmarried surviving spouse or minor orphans. Veteran's disability rating must be at **least** 10% to a maximum property exemption at 100% military service-connected disability rating. The recent changes in the law allow extending the deadline for filing an application for a veteran's exemption under certain circumstances; allowing an application for veteran's exemption to be amended under certain circumstances and providing a due date for filing an amended application. For more details about the specifics of the law call the Utah Division of Veterans Affairs. see **Veterans Special Group** pg 6

## Upcoming Events

- **May 27- 30, 2004** Utah WWII Veterans to Washington D.C. to attend dedication
- **May 31, 2004** Memorial Day Program/Salute to WWII Veterans at Veterans Cemetery 2:00 p.m. Senator Hatch and Congressman Matheson..
- **June 3-5, 2004** The Disabled American Veterans Convention will be held at HOLIDAY INN 1659 W. North Temple.
- **June 11-13, 2004** The Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention will be held at HOLIDAY INN 1659 W N Temple
- **June 16, 2004** How to apply for federal jobs workshop 9am.-noon VAMC bldg 9 auditorium
- **June 25-27, 2004** The American Legion Convention will be held at HOLIDAY INN St George.
- **Nov 2004** Stand Down for Homeless Veterans VAMC.
- **Nov 4, 2004** Veterans entrepreneurial workshop 9am - noon VAMC bldg 9 auditorium
- **Nov 11, 2004** Veterans Day Programs 2:00 p.m. Veterans Cemetery.

## The Origins of Memorial Day



*Following the war, John Logan became a Senator and Commander and Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. As a Senator, he worked hard to award pensions to Union veterans. In 1884, he was the unsuccessful Republican nominee for vice-president. Logan also authored numerous books including, *The Volunteer Soldier of America* and *The Great Conspiracy*.*

Three years after the Civil War ended, May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of former Union soldiers and sailors- the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)- established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared it should be May 30. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery across the Potomac River from Washington D.C. The cemetery already held the remains of 20,000 Union dead and several hundred Confederate dead.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the

home of Gen. Robert E. Lee, Gen. And Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant and other Washington officials presided. After speeches, children from the Soldiers and Sailors Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women battled at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of the Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the

women placed some of their flowers on those graves as well.

Today cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of the Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

see **Memorial Day** pg 5



# The Utah Veterans Voice

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# Golf Tournament to Benefit Utah Veterans

The State of Utah Division of Veterans Affairs along with the Veterans Nursing home will be sponsoring a golf tournament. The tournament will take place on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at 7:00 a.m. on the Hill Air Force Base golf course. Proceeds from the tournament will go to fund veterans programs in the veterans' nursing home and the V.A. medical center and also the Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs. For more information concerning this event and other upcoming events call the Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-894-9497.

# Facts about VA's National Cemeteries

National cemeteries are honored places in communities where deceased veterans receive perpetual care to commemorate their service as members of the U.S. armed forces. Most men and women who have served in the military are eligible for burial in a national cemetery, as are their dependent children and usually their spouses. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) manages the country's network of national cemeteries through its National Cemetery Administration.

## Key Statistics

- VA maintains more than 2.5 million gravesites at 120 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldier's lots and monument sites.
- Since 1973, annual interments in VA national cemeteries have increased from 36,400 to 89,750 in fiscal year (FY) 2003. Interments are expected to increase annually until 2008.
- The nation's most famous national cemetery – Arlington National Cemetery – is one of the few not run by VA. It is administered by the Army.
- More than 309,600 full-casket gravesites, 59,000 in-ground gravesites for cremated remains and more than 37,800 columbarium niches are available in already-developed areas of VA national cemeteries.
- There are approximately 14,200 acres within established national cemeteries. Just over half are undeveloped and – along with available gravesites in developed acreage — have the potential to provide more than 3.6 million gravesites.
- Of the 120 national cemeteries, 60 are open to all interments; 23 can accommodate cremated remains and family members of those already interred; and 37 are closed to new interments but accommodate family members in already occupied gravesites.

Seventy-four percent of interments in FY 2003 were in the 20 busiest national cemeteries: Riverside, Calif.; Calverton, N.Y.; Florida, in Bushnell; Fort Snelling in Minneapolis; Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis; Willamette in Portland, Ore.; Fort Logan in Denver; National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix; Houston; Fort Rosecrans in San Diego; Dallas-Ft. Worth; San Joaquin Valley in Gustine, Calif.; Tahoma in Kent, Wash.; Massachusetts in Bourne; Abraham Lincoln in Ellwood, Ill.; Long Island, N.Y.; Indiantown Gap in Annville, Pa.; Puerto Rico, in Bayamon; and Santa Fe, N.M.

- As of Sept. 30, 2003, six national cemeteries each contained more than 100,000 occupied gravesites, collectively accounting for 35 percent of all VA gravesites maintained: Long Island, N.Y. (241,825); Calverton, N.Y. (153,976); Fort Snelling in Minneapolis (134,756); Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis (120,602); Golden Gate in San Bruno, Calif. (112,035); and Riverside, Calif. (125,955).
- Largest national cemetery: Calverton, N.Y., 1,045 acres.  
Smallest national cemetery: Hampton (Va.) at the VA Medical Center, .03 acres.  
Oldest national cemetery: 14 established in 1862 (12 currently maintained by VA).  
Newest national cemetery: Fort Sill in Elgin, Okla., opened in November 2001.
- Since 1973, VA has provided nearly 8.4 million headstones and markers. In FY 2003, VA provided more than 344,800 headstones and markers.
- VA provided more than 254,600 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved ones of deceased veterans in FY 2003.
- Since 1980, the State Cemetery Grants Program has awarded or obligated more than \$189 million to 30 states and Guam for the establishment, expansion or improvement of 54 state veterans cemeteries. In FY 2003, VA-supported state cemeteries provided more than 18,000 interments.
- Volunteers donated more than 315,200 hours at VA national cemeteries during FY 2003.
- More than 8.7 million people visited VA national cemeteries in FY 2003.

In 1999 and 2003, with the passage of two laws, Congress directed VA to establish 12 new national cemeteries. One has been opened in Oklahoma. The rest – one in Alabama, two in California, three in Florida, one in Georgia, one in Michigan, two in Pennsylvania and one in South Carolina – will be located near large populations of veterans who currently do not have access to a burial option.

## Veteran Statistics

Veterans' deaths are expected to peak at more than 676,000 in 2008. Based on census data, it is estimated that more than 655,000 veterans died in 2003. Historically, about 10 percent of U.S. veterans choose to be buried in VA national cemeteries. This percentage will increase with the recent opening of new national cemeteries.





DAV CHAPTER SIX HONOR GUARD LEFT TO RIGHT: (FRONT ROW) TUCK MARCANTONIO; BYRON UHRHAN; JOLENE ASKEW; JOHN OWADA; DAVID ESTEY. (BACK ROW) TEX POCKRUS; JAY STAKER; JOHN MCNEIL; DELMAR ROSS; ARNOLD LANO; KERM LEMKE.

# The Facts about ‘Members’

In an effort to clear up a common misunderstanding about “inactive member” status in the DAY Membership System, Chapters and Departments should refer to DAV Bylaws, sections 11.1 and 11.4. These sections deal primarily with dues payments.

As a reminder, inactive members are those who have an insufficient amount of dues paid to the organization to allow for distributions from the Life Membership fund. This is not the same as a member being “not in good standing.” Many of our members have taken advantage of temporary or free trial membership, where no dues payment is initially required. These individuals are members and are afforded all rights and privileges of membership as found in Section 11.7 of our by laws. As with any free, temporary or partially paid member, the individuals should be encouraged to become a

fully paid life member as soon as possible. From time to time this Department will conduct a life member conversion mailing in an attempt to have these members become frilly paid.

As a reminder, changes to our by laws at the most recent National Convention concerned the dues structure. Effective July 1, 2004 dues will increase for new members to:

Age 40 and under	\$250
Age 41to60	\$239
Age 61to70	\$180
Age 71to79	\$140
Age 80 and older	FREE

These rates are determined based on the age of the individual at the time of application and the member does not move to the lower rate when his age changes, except in the case of a member who turns 80. These members will be automatically declared members for life. Members who have not completed payments on their Life Membership will continue to fall under the prior rates and

will not be subject to the increase, so long as a dues payment has been made. Those who have not paid any dues payment will come under the new rates beginning July 1 unless a dues payment is received. That is why it is important for them to make a dues payment as soon as possible. DAV will send those members who have not made any payment a reminder this spring advising them of the importance of maintaining their membership. Finally, those members who are dropped from our membership rolls due to non-payment of dues will be required to pay the new rates should they renew their membership at a later date. However, they will be given credit for their previous dues payments.

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[www.undav.or](http://www.undav.or)

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ROCK SPRINGS WYOMING**

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**FOR APPOINTMENTS**



ONE OF THE VANS OF THE DAV TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM BEING DEDICATED LEFT TO RIGHT: John Maher, Department Adjutant; Don Moore, Associate Director, VA; Heidi Hopper, DAV Hospital Service Coordinator.

## DONATIONS TO DAV TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The DAV would appreciate any and all donations to our Van Transportation Program. The VFW, Department of Utah, is currently contemplating a sizable contribution. Remember, our van program transports all veterans free of charge, regardless of any organizational affiliation.

**801-359-8168**

## CEREMONIAL BUGLE

There now is available a Ceremonial Bugle to be used when a live bugler is not available for a military funeral. The bugle has an electronic insert that enables an individual to “symbolically” play Taps. The bugle is operated on batteries and has a chip which sounds the Taps. Sound volume is controlled by a volume control based on distance from fu-

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1636 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
1637 New York, NY 10128

Telephone (212) 426-3268  
FAX (212) 369-9491  
Web page is located at:  
[WWW.ceremoial.bugle.com](http://WWW.ceremoial.bugle.com)



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No prepayment penalty

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Current VA Maximum lending limit \$322,700

## ELIGIBLE BORROWER (S)

Veteran (Single or married)

Veteran and Non-Veteran Spouse

2 married Veterans

Unmarried surviving spouse of an eligible Veteran

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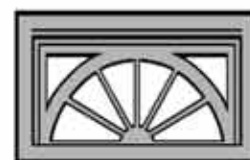


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# Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs

Utah has more than 161,000 veterans and too many of them are not getting the word on Veterans’ benefits they have earned. Utah has veterans that are still feeling the effects of wounds they received in combat, but are not receiving Veterans’ benefits they are entitled to, and we need to make them aware of their benefits. Some are unable to travel to The Utah Division of Veterans Affairs or Veterans Administration offices to receive help filing claims for these benefits. Because of this the Utah Division of Veterans Affairs has a program to help veterans and their families, this service is called The Veterans Service Officer Outreach Program. The mission of each Service Officer is to assist Utah Veterans, who have been wounded or injured while in service to our country, in all manners pertaining to Veterans’ benefits. The Service Officers will travel twice a month to assist veterans in rural areas. To find out when they will be in your area please contact The Utah Division of Veterans Affairs at 1 (800) 894-9497. Please pass this message along to every veteran you know.

Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
17111 South Camp Williams Road  
Bluffdale, Utah 84065  
(801) 254-9036

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery is a lasting memorial to Utah veterans of all wars. The Veteran Cemetery is a burial place for eligible Utah veterans, their spouses and dependant children. The cemetery also provides an appropriate venue for memorial services, funerals and other veteran memorial related services. This 30-acre cemetery offers a beautiful panorama of the Wasatch Mountains. It has a modern 150-seat chapel as a centerpiece and an administration building with military artifacts including a Freedom Shrine containing copies of the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights and other significant historical documents that relate to the founding of our country.

# Veterans License Plates

Utah veterans license plates may be purchased for an initial \$25.00 voluntary contribution for the Utah State Division of Veterans’ Affairs, plus a \$10.00 plate transfer fee, in addition to normal registration and property tax fees. There will also be a yearly \$10.00 renewal fee. Proceeds from the sale and renewal of these plates help fund veteran programs within the state. All branches of U.S. Military Service are represented with color decal emblems (Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) along with the phrase “Utah Honors Veterans.” **\*NEW\* American Legion Plates are now in and available!** You do not have to be a veteran to purchase veteran license plates! If you want to honor a brother or father, even a mother who’s served their country, this is the perfect way to show your pride! Plates can be purchased at any Department of Motor Vehicles office. Special plates such as Military Order of the Purple Heart and Pearl Harbor Survivors Association require a membership card in either organization or a copy of a DD-214 (or equivalent).

Utah State Veterans Nursing Home  
700 Foothill Drive  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113  
(801) 584-1900

The Utah State Veterans Nursing Home is a skilled nursing facility located at the V.A. Medical Center Campus in Salt Lake City. The facility specializes in providing services to veterans and their spouses in a professional, compassionate manner. Our residents reside in a safe, comfortable, and clean setting where each individual’s unique medical needs are provided for. Our nursing home is Medicare Certified to give veterans the opportunity to use their Medicare Benefits if the need arises. The eligibility requirement for admission is that the veteran has been honorably discharged from the military. Following are a few of the services we provide: Three meals and snacks per day, therapeutic diets, laundry service, housekeeping service, transportation to appointments, full time therapy services, medication management, restorative nursing services, religious opportunities and a caring professional staff.

# The Origins of Memorial Day

•continued from pg 1

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the “birthplace” of Memorial Day. There a ceremony on May 5, 1866, was reported to have honored local soldiers and sailors who fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-mast. Supported of Waterloo’s claims say earlier observations in other places were informal.

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day. The Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971 Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, through it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday, as were some other federal holidays.

Many Southern States also have their own for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day the Last Monday of April. Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day. Gen. Logan’s order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 “with the choicest flowers of springtime” urged: “We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance.... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the generations that we have forgotten as a people that cost of a free and undivided republic.” The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as

those that attend today’s observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave-a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones. The origin of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation’s wars: “Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men”

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# VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COUNSELING

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service (VR&E) provides vocational-educational counseling to veterans and certain dependents. Eligibility for this service is based on having eligibility for a VA Education program such as: Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill); Chapter 32 (Veterans Education Assistance Program – VEAP); Chapter 35 (Dependents Education Assistance Program) for certain spouses and dependent children; Chapter 18 (SpinaBifida Program ) for certain dependent children; Chapter 1606 (Reservists Education Program); Public Law 102-16 (for Transitioning Service members).

VR&E can provide a wide range of vocational and educational counseling services to service members still on active duty, as well as veterans and dependents who are eligible for one of VA’s educational benefit programs. These services are designed to help an individual choose a vocational goal and determine the course needed to achieve the chosen goal.

Assistance may include interest and aptitude testing; occupational exploration; setting occupational goals; locating the right type of training program and exploring educational or training facilities which might be utilized to achieve an occupational goal.

Counseling charges are provided to eligible persons at no charge. However, VA does not pay for transportation to the place of the counseling. To provide a full service, the counseling may take more than one session. Call the nationwide toll free number, 1-800-827-1000, to request VA Form 28-8832, Application for Vocational Educational Counseling.

If you would like additional information on any of the VA benefit programs, please contact us at the above number, visit the office at 550 Foothill Drive, Salt Lake City, or visit VA’s website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

## Veterans Special Group License Plates

The bill changes and modifies the Motor Vehicles Code by amending special group license plate provisions. This bill provides that the contributor to the State Office of Veterans Affairs shall make an annual donation of \$10.00 for a veterans’ special group license plate after the initial \$25.00 donation required at the time of application. The money that is collected from the Veterans’ special group license plate fund will be used to fund Veterans Programs. One of our programs is the veterans’ outreach to rural counties. For more information please give our office a call at (801) 326-2372 or 1-800-894-9497.

## Designation of Commemorative Days

This bill creates a commemorative day for Utah men and women serving in the armed forces around the world in defense of freedom. Commemorative Day will be designated as the third Monday in May as Yellow Ribbon Day. POW/MIA recognition day will be the third Friday in September.

More information can be obtained from the State office of Veterans Affairs at the following numbers (801) 326-2372 or Statewide Toll Free Number 1-800-894-9497.

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(801) 394-8900

### Utah Valley

1408 South State  
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(801) 225-9300

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Provo, Utah  
(801) 375-0600

### Saint George

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(435) 673-4464

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# VA’S SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING PROGRAM

Veterans that have specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of constructing an adapted dwelling or modifying an existing to meet the veteran’s needs. The goal of the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Program is to provide a barrier-free living environment which affords the veteran a level of independent living.

There are two types of grants administered by VA which are available to assist severely disabled veterans in adapting housing to their special needs.

Part I of the Specially Adapted Housing Grant is available to disabled veterans who are entitled a wheelchair accessible home especially adapted for their needs.

Part II of the Grant is available to veterans who are entitled to adaptations because of blindness in both eyes with 5/200 visual acuity or less, or includes the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands.

If you need more information and would like to talk with a Veterans Service Representative about eligibility and the application process, call our toll-free number at 1-800-827-1000, or visit our website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).



George E. Wahlen

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## Salt Lake VA Medical Center Changes Name “George E. Wahlen”

On Veterans Day 2003 Sen. Robert F. Bennett sponsored legislation, under Senate Bill 1156, to rename our medical center after George E. Wahlen, who is Utah’s only living Medal of Honor recipient. President Bush signed the bill on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003, and Bennett made the official announcement at a news conference held Thursday, Jan. 8, 2004.

President Harry S. Truman presented the Medal of Honor to Wahlen on Oct. 5, 1945, on behalf of his comrades at the battle of Iwo Jima. Wahlen was seriously wounded three times; however, he continued to risk his life to provide aid to wounded members of his company.

“Grace under pressure has been described as the definition of a true hero,” said Bennett as he referred to Wahlen. Bennett stated in the Congressional Record “In this circumstance, we honor George Wahlen, as a veteran, a medal of honor winner, a man of both valor and virtue, and as a representative of all of the veterans who have served their country.”

Wahlen worked for the Veterans Benefit Administration for 14 years and was instrumental in the establishment of the veterans nursing home, located on the medical center campus, and for the state veterans cemetery at Camp Williams.

For more information about obtaining an AD  
contact the Utah Division of Veterans affairs.  
1-800-894-9497





# Letters To The Veterans

Dear Veteran,

Nov. 1, 2003

Thank you for fighting in the war for us. We are so grateful you did that. Thank you for sacrificing your life so our country can live in freedom. We all hope you're doing well. We also hope our letters make you happy. We hope you get better soon.

Sincerely,  
Emily

Thank you SO much!



Dear Veterans,

I just wanted to say how grateful everyone is for what you do. You inspire young souls to join the army and serve our country.

Two of my uncles work in the airforce. The two uncles of mine that work there are heroes. I hope that they can go into war and fight for our country someday. I also hope that I can join the army someday.

Sincerely,  
Ashleigh

Dear Veterans,

I am very thankful for what you do for this country. Without you we would be hopeless. I think that you are a true example of a hero. I also think that every person that is willing to serve in a war should be awarded the Silver Star or the Medal of Honor. Why? Because aren't these awards (especially the Medal of Honor) given to people who risk their life to save another. My family and I all believe that is what your doing. Thank you so much for what you do. Hope you live a long happy and fun life.

Your supporter,

Jordan Johnson  
Dr. J Jr.

Dear Veterans,

Nov. 1, 2003

Thank you for serving our country. Thank you for spending time away from your family & friends so we could be safe.

We are very grateful that you would do that for us. Thank you.

Sincerely your friend,  
Natalie

XOXOXOXO



THANK YOU

Dear Veteran,

I would just like to say thank you for all that you have done for our country. Whatever war you have served in doesn't matter. All that matters is that you are alive, maybe not as well as before, but you are finally safe, and you have risked your life for your country. Thank you again for all you have given everybody in this good old U.S. of America!

Sincerely,  
Seena King  
5th grade Miss Beck's class

Dear Veteran,

Nov. 1, 2003

Thank you for helping us and our country. We are very thankful that you helped us in wars. Thank you for sacrificing so that we can live in peace. I hope you doing well. Thank you for everything that you did in wars.

Sincerely  
Besseraie



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## VA’s Headstones and Markers

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a headstone or marker for the grave of an eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. For deaths that occurred before Sept. 11, 2001, VA may furnish a headstone or marker only for graves that are not marked with a private headstone.

Headstones and markers are provided for eligible spouses and dependents of veterans only in national, military post or state veterans cemeteries. Spouses and dependents buried in private cemeteries are not eligible for a government headstone or marker.

Flat bronze, granite or marble markers and upright granite and marble headstones are available. The style chosen must be consistent with the cemetery’s rules. VA national cemeteries order the style used in their cemeteries. Most VA national cemeteries use upright granite or marble headstones, which measure 42 inches in height and 13 inches in width. Niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains.

### Eligibility :

Any deceased veteran discharged from the U.S. armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable is eligible to receive a government headstone or marker. For enlisted persons whose service began after Sept. 7, 1980, and for officers whose service began after Oct. 17, 1981, service must have been for at least 24 months, or the period for which the person was called to active duty.

Members of the reserves and National Guard who die on active duty or while performing training duty may receive a headstone or marker. Reservists and National Guardsmen with 20 years service who are entitled to retired pay are also eligible. A copy of the Reserve Retirement Eligibility Benefits Letter must accompany the application. People who had only active duty for training while in the National Guard or reserves are not eligible unless there are special circumstances, such as death while on duty or as a result of training.

If the death occurred before Sept. 11, 2001, by law VA may only furnish a headstone or marker if the grave is unmarked.

The same eligibility criteria apply for burial in VA’s national cemeteries.

### How To Order a Government Headstone or Marker :

When burial or memorialization is in a national, military post, or state veterans cemetery, cemetery staff will order a headstone or marker, using inscription information provided by the next of kin.

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## World War II Memorial Dedication

The upcoming World War II Dedication will be held in Washington D.C. on May 29, 2004. A small group of 50 Utah Veterans along with the State Director of Veterans affairs will be attending the dedication. Many of the Veterans that will be attending from Utah fought in WWII from the European theater to the Pacific Campaign. The Dedication of this memorial will pay tribute to those who fought in WWII and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice with their life. Tickets are currently sold out for the dedication in Washington D.C. However, the History Channel and C-Span have both agreed to carry the dedication ceremony live from start to finish beginning at 2:00 p.m. EDT on Saturday, May 29, 2004. More details are available at the World War II Memorial website. [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com)

## Military Funeral Honors

The Department of Defense (DoD) provides military funeral honors at the burials of veterans. When requested, funeral honors can be given at any cemetery – private or government-operated. Most funeral directors make those arrangements with DoD on behalf of family members.

While military funeral honors are a long-standing tradition, it wasn’t until 1999 that the rights of veterans and the responsibilities of the federal government were written into law. That law, which took effect Jan. 1, 2000, was the National Defense Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-65).

Under the new law, at a family’s request, every eligible veteran will receive military funeral honors, to include the presence of a military funeral honors detail, which will oversee folding and presenting the U.S. Flag and playing “Taps,” either by a high-quality recording or by a bugler. The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the veteran’s branch of military service.

Funeral home directors must request military funeral honors from DoD, whether burial is in a national cemetery or another cemetery. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) staff at national cemeteries will help, when necessary, to facilitate a request to DoD for funeral honors at VA national cemeteries.

Veterans organizations may provide military funeral honors or may assist the military members rendering the honors. When honors are desired at a national cemetery, they are arranged by the funeral home in advance of the committal service. A few VA national cemeteries are served by veterans groups that regularly provide funeral honors.

DoD maintains a military funeral honors web site at [www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil](http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil). For more information or to volunteer for Funeral Honors contact the Utah Division of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-894-9497.

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## New SBA Regulations to Create Contracting Opportunities For Service-Disabled Veterans

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Small Business Administration today announced a new procurement program that will boost federal contract opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. The interim rule will be published tomorrow and is effective immediately. The Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council concurrently released regulations implementing the program.

“President Bush has made it a priority to reach out to all of America’s entrepreneurs, and we have a special responsibility to make an effort for those who sacrificed for our safety and freedom,” SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto said. “We have made a strong effort to do precisely that. Federal contract dollars to service-disabled veterans increased from \$298 million in fiscal year 2002 to \$510 million in FY2003. But we want to do more. The regulations being issued today will ensure that those great Americans who served our country proudly continue to have fair and open access to contracting opportunities.”

The new rule will amend the relevant sections of the Code of Federal Regulations, adding provisions that will allow contracting officers to restrict contract awards to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses when there is a reasonable expectation that two or more service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses will submit bids at a fair market price. It also allows awards of sole-source contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses when there is not a reasonable expectation that two or more service-disabled veteran-owned firms will submit bids and the anticipated contract price does not exceed \$3 million, with the exception of manufacturing contracts where the contracting threshold is \$5 million.

The interim rule allows small businesses to self-certify as service-disabled veteran-owned businesses. Any challenge to a firm’s status as a small business or standing as a service-disabled veteran-owned small business must be referred to the SBA for resolution. The SBA will rely upon existing Department of Veteran’s Affairs or Department of Defense determinations regarding status and will help enforce penalties for false representation.

*For more information about all of the SBA’s programs for small businesses, visit the SBA’s extensive Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*

*You can also receive all of the SBA’s News Releases via email. To subscribe, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list> and select “Press Office.”*



# The National Cemetery Administration

In the second summer of a war that few believed would last more than a few months and with thousands already dead, Congress enacted legislation on July 17, 1862 authorizing the president to purchase “cemetery grounds” for use as national cemeteries “for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country.” Fourteen cemeteries were established that first year, including one in Sharpsburg, Md., where 4,476 Union soldiers were laid to rest after the one-day Battle of Antietam. (By comparison, approximately 3,000 Americans, British and Canadians died on June 6, 1944, in the invasion of Normandy.)

By 1870, the remains of nearly 300,000 Union dead had been buried in 73 national cemeteries. Most of the cemeteries were located in the Southeast, near the battlefields and campgrounds of the war. After the war, the Quartermaster General directed Army crews to scour the countryside to locate the remains of soldiers who had died in battle. They were buried in the new national cemeteries, which were enclosed by brick walls and entered through ornate gates. Tragically, however, the identities of nearly half of those who died in service to the Union and are buried in national cemeteries are unknown.

What would become a National Cemetery System under the Army evolved slowly from the initial period of great challenge associated with the Civil War. All honorably discharged veterans became eligible for burial in 1873. Cemeteries associated with military posts on the western frontier, such as Ft. McPherson, Neb., were added in the late 19th century.

In 1923, Congress established the American Battle Monuments Commission, an independent agency responsible for maintaining burial grounds in foreign countries of American Armed Forces members who died in World War I, World War II or the Mexican War. The Commission maintains 24 American military cemeteries as well as monuments and memorials

In the 1930s, new national cemeteries were established to serve veterans living in metropolitan areas such as New York, Baltimore, Minneapolis, San Diego, San Francisco and San Antonio. Several, closely associated with battlefields such as Gettysburg, were transferred to the National Park Service because of their value in interpreting the historical significance of the battles. In 1973, Congress authorized the transfer of 82 national cemeteries from the Department of the Army to the Veterans Administration, now the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Joining with 21 VA cemeteries located at hospitals and nursing homes, the National Cemetery System comprised 103 cemeteries after the transfer.

On November 11, 1998, congressional legislation changed the name of the National Cemetery System (NCS) to the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

Today, there are 136 national cemeteries. VA, through its National Cemetery Administration, operates 120 of them. Two national cemeteries — Arlington in Virginia and the Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home in Washington, D.C. — are still administered by the Army. Fourteen national cemeteries are maintained by the Department of the Interior.

More than 3 million people, including veterans of every war and conflict — from the Revolutionary War to the Operation Iraqi Freedom — are honored by burial in VA’s national cemeteries, which have a total of more than 14,200 acres of land from Hawaii to Maine and from Alaska to Puerto Rico. More than 300 recipients of the Medal of Honor are buried in VA’s national cemeteries. Monuments and memorials recall the courage and sacrifice of Americans — from Nathan Hale to “Edson’s Raiders,” Marine commandos who fought in the Solomon Islands’ campaign during WWII.

In November 2001, VA opened its 120<sup>th</sup> cemetery – Fort Sill National Cemetery in Oklahoma. Currently, 60 VA cemeteries, in 34 states, are able to provide both casket and cremation burials for America’s veterans and their families. An additional 23 provide burial for family members of those already buried and can also bury cremated remains.

In 1999 and 2003, with the passage of two laws, Congress directed VA to establish 12 new national cemeteries. One of those is the Fort Sill National Cemetery. The rest — one in Alabama, two in California, three in Florida, one in Georgia, one in Michigan, two in Pennsylvania and one in South Carolina — will be located near large populations of veterans who currently do not have access to burial in a veterans cemetery.

In addition to providing a gravesite and a graveliner, VA opens and closes the grave, provides a headstone or marker, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a U.S. Flag, and perpetually cares for the grave at no cost to the veteran’s family.

To complement national cemeteries and expand burial options for veterans, VA assists states in building or improving state veterans cemeteries through its State Cemetery Grants Program. VA will pay for construction costs in exchange for states providing the land and operating the cemeteries. Fifty-five state veterans’ cemeteries have been funded by VA grants in 29 states and Guam, and in 2003 they provided more than 18,000 interments.

Today, more than 25 million veterans, active duty servicemembers killed in action, and some current and former Reservists and National Guard members have earned the right to burial in a national cemetery. Veterans with discharges “other than dishonorable,” their spouses and dependent children are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery.

For more information or to confirm eligibility, contact the nearest national cemetery or a VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000. Information also is available on NCA’s home page at <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

## Important Telephones Numbers

Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs	(801) 326-2372
Toll Free Outside Salt Lake City	1-800-894-9497
Utah Veterans Cemetery	(801) 254-9036
Utah Veterans Nursing Home	(801) 584-1900
SLC VA Regional Office	1-800-827-1000
George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center	1-800-613-4012
VA Home Loans	1-888-487-1970
Montgomery GI Bill	1-888-422-4551
SLC Vet Center	1-800-281-1294
Provo Vet Center	1-800-246-1197
Veterans Upward Bound	(801) 626-7173
Homeless Veterans Fellowship Ogden	(801) 392-7662
Disable American Veterans	(801) 326-2375
American Legion	(801) 326-2380
Veterans of Foreign Wars	(801) 326-2385

## Utah Veteran Board Members

### Veterans Advisory Council Members:

Mel Jarvis, Chairman	John Sparks, Vice Chairman
Alan Ferner, Secretary	Dave Matern
Jay Staker	Dan Crossley
Douglas Wadsworth	James Floyd
Terry Schow	Jonnie Janes
Bob Linnell	Bart Davis
Ivan Flint	

### Veterans Nursing Home Board Members:

Terry Schow	Timothy Burke
Delbert Boyington	Douglas Wadsworth
Keith Mercer	John Sparks

### Veterans Cemetery Board Members:

Mel Jarvis	Don Reaveley
Leon Zoltz	Dr. Wendell McGarry
Johnnie Janes	Monte Rock





## The American Legion

### DEPARTMENT OF UTAH

455 South 400 East  
Suite 50  
Salt Lake, Utah 84111  
(801) 539-1013

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veteran's organization. It is a community-service organization which now numbers nearly 3 million members — men and women — in nearly 15,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. These Posts are organized into 55 Departments — one each for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines. Utah has 97 Post located throughout the state.

The American Legion's national headquarters is in Indianapolis, Indiana, with additional offices in Washington, DC. In addition to thousands of volunteers serving in leadership and program implementation capacities in local communities to the Legion's standing national commissions and committees, the national organization has a regular full-time staff of about 300 employees. Our State headquarters employs a staff of six.

In Partnership with the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion our purpose is to provide "service" to our veterans, their families, and their communities. Since 1919 we have been fulfilling this purpose and making it our number one priority.

The American Legion is holding their annual State Convention in sunny St. George Utah this year. The dates for the convention are 25-27 June 2004. The meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Resort and Convention Center where they have a saying, "that if the sun doesn't shine that day, your rooms are free". We are going to discuss some State business, elect new State Officers, and have some fun, so mark your calendar. The National Headquarters will be represented by the National Children and Youth Director, Marty Justus.

After 85 years of being housed in the State Capitol Building, The American Legion has moved its Headquarters offices. The Capitol is being restored and this project will last approximately five years. After the completion of the Capitol building we will be back. During the construction the new offices for the Legion is 455 South 400 East Suite 50 Salt Lake Utah 84111. After so many years enjoying the relationship with the State it was a difficult move.

The American Legion sponsors a week long course for high school boys to learn about the political procedures and the inner duties of our elected officials. Boys State is held the first part of June each year at Weber State in Ogden. With the students fee they are offered 3 credit hours in Political Science that is fully transferable. Last year there was over \$160,000.00 in scholarship given to the 270 boys that attended.

Other programs under The American Legion are Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Legislative, and Foreign Relation. Utah is unique to sponsor a Miss American Legion. The Queen then goes on to the Miss Utah pageant. We also, sponsor, Eagle Scout of the Year, Junior Shooting, and Legion Baseball.

Veterans are able to file a claim to the VA for service connected disabilities by visiting The American Legion Service Officer. Greg Rowley is located at 550 Foothill Blvd Salt Lake Utah (801) 326-2380. Also, if you need to increase your existing disability, call for an appointment.

Some interesting facts about the Legion, did you know that our membership is comprised of the following percentages? The WWII era veterans make up 33%, Korean era veterans 21%, the Vietnam era veterans 35%, the Panama era veterans 2%, the Persian Gulf era veterans 6%, and the Lebanon/Grenada era veterans 4% of the States membership.

The American Legion would encourage all veterans to take part of their community politics, know who you are voting for. Try to find out what each candidates opinion and position on veterans issues are. And most of all, vote.

As mentioned earlier, our purposes is service and to find out more about becoming a member or how you can serve, contact your local Post or our Department Office at (801) 539-1013, you can catch us on the web at [utlegion.org](http://utlegion.org).



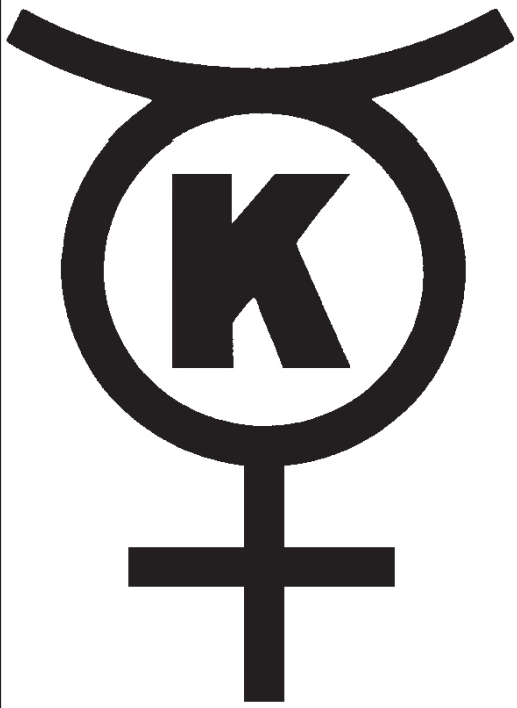
Harry Miller

## Publisher Harry Miller

Harry Miller was born in New York City in 1905. In the neighborhood that overflows with immigrants from Russia, at the age of 5 my family moved to Denver, Colorado. I started school in Barnum, when I graduated I was given a white shirt for my graduation as a gift. Before I knew it I started selling newspapers on the streets. The papers cost two cents and I received one cent. I had to fight with other kids on the corner to make a few pennies. At night I would go up to the avenues and screech and holler extra, extra Charlie Chaplin dies. All the people would say where in the paper does it say Charlie Chaplin dies? Of course I'd grab their two cents and said Charlie Chaplin dies his mustache every Friday night.

Before I knew it as a kid I started growing up I became a good amateur boxer, and graduated from the University of Denver and moved into the boxing world. At 112 lbs amateur and learning all the tricks of a newsboy and boxer. It was only natural that I would go into the field of amateur boxing and my knowledge brought me into the field of publishing. In a year or so I became the director of amateur boxing throughout the entire country this was a great experience. I had the opportunity of meeting world champions like Mohammad Ali and Jean Fullmer. In the mean while my publishing business was very profitable and I went into publishing on a large scale. I started the Lorrane press named after my army regiment. I received my second lieutenant commission at Fort Benning. With the help of my champion regimental commander he helped me in writing the history of the 79<sup>th</sup>, which I printed and published for all of America. I was awarded several honors a bronze star for gallantry. I am now currently living in Utah and enjoying my life at the age of 99.





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Utah Copper**

*And Our Employees*

*Are Proud To Support The*

*Veterans And Their Families*

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**Investing In Resources That  
Strengthen Utah's Future**